a processing device coupled to the server, wherein the processing device is one of a plurality of processing devices configured as a cluster which is not in a path from a client to the objects stored at the server,

wherein:

the storage server receives a client request for an object of the set of objects through the network interface;

the storage server selects the processing device from among the plurality of processing devices, based on a classification of the processing device relative to other processing devices in the cluster, wherein the classification is based on a performance criterion;

the storage server assigns a specific access type to [[a]] **the** processing device when the storage server verifies the processing device satisfies restriction criteria, the processing device separate from the storage server and not in a path from the client to the object, the specific access type allowing the processing device to perform an operation on the object even while another user has a lock on the object, wherein the operation is from the set of operations consisting of virus scanning, data decompression, data encryption, and data compaction;

the storage server causes the processing device to perform the operation;

the storage server receives at the storage server a result of the operation from the processing device; and

the storage server conditionally allows access to the object in response to the client request according to the result of the operation.

89.    (Canceled)

90.    (Currently amended) A storage server comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor through a bus, the memory storing executable instructions that cause the processor to select a processing device from among a plurality of processing devices that form a cluster, based on a classification of

the processing device relative to other processing devices in the cluster, wherein the classification is based on a performance criterion, and to determine whether to cause [[a]] the processing device to

perform an operation on an object requested by a client and to assign a specific access type to the processing device when the processor verifies the processing device satisfies restriction criteria, wherein the operation is from the set of operations consisting of virus scanning, data decompression, data encryption, and data compaction, the specific access type allowing the processing device to perform an operation on the object even while another user has a lock on the object, wherein the processing device is separate from the storage server and is not in a path from the client to objects stored at the storage server.

91.     (Canceled)

92.     (Previously presented) A storage server as in claim 90, wherein the operation includes a plurality of processes, each process being performed at a separate processing device in the cluster.

93.     (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 82, wherein the operation includes a plurality of processes, each process being performed at a separate processing device in the cluster.

94.     (Previously presented) A method as in claim 86, wherein the operation includes a plurality of processes, each process being performed at a separate processing device in the cluster.

95.     (Previously presented) An apparatus as in claim 88, wherein the operation includes a plurality of processes, each process being performed at a separate processing device in the cluster.

## REMARKS

Please enter the above amendment prior to issuing the present application as a patent.

Claims 88 and 90 have been amended to correct minor informalities. This amendment does not introduce any new matter or raise any new issues.

These amendments are made only to place the present application in better form and are not necessary to comply with any statutory requirement of patentability.

Please charge Deposit Account 50-2207 for any fees associated with this submission.

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Respectfully submitted,

By_____
Jordan M. Becker
   Registration No.: 39,602

CUSTOMER NO. 77042
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1208
Seattle, Washington  98111-1208
(650) 838-4300
(650) 838-4350 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant